



Tulsa Market Brief

November, 2018

Spotlight on the Market

Employment rate improves in October

Tulsa World - November 30, 2018

OKLAHOMA CITY — Every Oklahoma county and the state's largest metro areas showed improvement in October unemployment rates compared to last year. The jobless rate fell 0.8 percentage points in the Oklahoma City metro area and 0.9 percent in the Tulsa metro area since October 2017, hitting rates of 2.8 and 3.1 percent, respectively. Oklahoma City was unchanged from September, while Tulsa rose 0.1 percent.

John Klein: New sculpture to be eastern gateway to Tulsa's Route 66

Tulsa World - November 26, 2018

A significant piece of Tulsa's historic Route 66 renaissance will soon join a growing list of attractions in what many consider the heart and soul of the iconic American highway. Installation of the "Route 66 Rising" sculpture begins this week on the eastern edge of the city. It joins other recently opened Route 66 landmarks, such as the Mother Road Market, Pearl District revitalization, Kendall Whittier neighborhood development, 11th Street Arkansas River Bridge, Route 66 Historical Village and Route 66 sculptures in Howard Park.

Tulsa's VA clinics to be consolidated under one roof in south Tulsa with more offerings

Tulsa World - November 26, 2018

By way of the future consolidation of its Tulsa services within a single new facility, the Eastern Oklahoma Veterans Affairs Health Care System also will broaden its offerings. Local VA officials tout the streamlined expansion as a one-stop shop, world-class facility that is designed with the capacity to accommodate clientele growth projections over the next two decades. Groundbreaking is expected in March or April 2019 on a 140,000-square-foot building at 91st Street and South Mingo Road, with an initial commitment of \$20 million from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The 20-year lease totals nearly \$100 million.

Officials mark one-third completion of Turner Turnpike expansion; project still months ahead of schedule

Tulsa World - November 16, 2018

Officials on Thursday marked completion of the first 8 miles of turnpike expansion between west Tulsa and Bristow. Gov. Mary Fallin and other officials were on hand for a ribbon-cutting at the Turner Turnpike construction staging area at 151st Street, near Kellyville, marking completion of about a third of the 22-mile, \$300 million project.

Owasso City Manager Discusses Economy

GTR Newspapers – November 16, 2018

Owasso residents have the lowest property taxes in the metro area and it's one of the fastest growing communities in the state, making it a challenge for the city to fund its improvements. In a State of the City address, Owasso City Manager Warren Lehr updated members of the Owasso Chamber of Commerce on more than 30 municipal projects at costs totaling more than \$100 million.

Industrial sector booming thanks to e-commerce growth, interstate system

Journal Record - November 15, 2018

As companies expand to provide distribution points and service centers in Oklahoma to meet the needs of online shoppers, the effects have been positive for the state's industrial commercial real estate market. These expansions boost the industrial sector by occupying existing buildings or through new construction and development. An added benefit with each new facility and expansion is more new jobs to the Oklahoma workforce.

Gathering Place Unveils World Premiere of 'Cabinet of Wonder' by World Renowned Artist Mark Dion

GTR Newspapers – November 14, 2018

Research Wizard Tulsa Market Brief

Tulsa City-County Library
400 Civic Center
Tulsa, OK 74103
www.tulsalibrary.org



Phone: 918-549-7431
Fax: 918-549-7433
Email: wizard@tulsalibrary.org

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The Cabinet of Wonder, a Mark Dion project done in collaboration with Mark Scogin and Merrill Elam-Architects, opened to the public at the Gathering Place ONEOK Boat House on Saturday, Nov. 3. The first-of-its-kind installation is the inaugural piece of a program in which various recognized artists will travel to Gathering Place to leave their mark on Tulsa by creating public art installations throughout the park.

Tulsa StartUp Series gives entrepreneurs nudge in business

Tulsa World - November 14, 2018

Of the 68 companies that have delivered live pitches to the Tulsa StartUp Series since 2016, a total of 84.6 percent are still in business. That is according to the series' first impact report released Tuesday by the program's developer, Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation. The report examines data from 2016 to 2018.

Tulsa program to offer coworking space

Journal Record - November 13, 2018

TULSA The George Kaiser Family Foundation and the city of Tulsa announced the Tulsa Remote program offering a \$10,000 grant and additional benefits to eligible applicants who move to and work remotely from Tulsa for a year. Each \$10,000 grant will be distributed over the course of a year to eligible remote workers or entrepreneurs living outside of Tulsa County.

More storage tanks and pipelines needed to keep pace with production

Journal Record - November 9, 2018

TULSA Petroleum production is rising and the rig count is the highest it has been in three and a half years. The need to move oil and gas out of the basins to the refineries and to store it near the export terminals that demand it remains significant. What's more, it's creating opportunities for the companies that fabricate crude storage tanks, build pipelines and operate terminals that link suppliers with buyers.

Broken Arrow's Contech paves way to Cherokee Nation construction award

Tulsa World - November 7, 2018

A Native American-owned business that did extensive work on the Gathering Place has been honored by the Cherokee Nation as Construction Company of the Year. Contech Inc. of Broken Arrow was recognized last week at the tribe's 11th Annual Tribal Employment Rights Office awards banquet at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa. Other Tulsa-area firms honored were Lynxsystems of Tulsa, Large Business of the Year; Maska Builders of Jenks, Customer Service Award; and Frame Tek of Bixby, Community Leadership Award.

Get your licks on Route 66: Entrepreneurs try new food concepts at Mother Road Market

Tulsa World - November 2, 2018

Mother Road Market, a 27,000-square-foot collective of about 20 eateries and retail shops, held its grand opening Friday. A development of the nonprofit Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation and located along Route 66, the \$5.5 million facility is housed in the renovated 1939 Scrivner-Stevens Grocery building.

Expansions, Openings, Relocations, Acquisitions

Bright Morning Farm celebrates ribbon cutting

Tulsa World - November 30, 2018

City officials and Chamber members celebrated the ribbon cutting for Bright Morning Farm Thursday. Sheilah Bright opened a 3,600-square-foot barn at 5802 S. 145th W. Avenue as an event venue in May. It reportedly holds between 200 and 225 people for weddings, reunions, anniversary parties, holiday parties and more.

Construction underway on eastside health clinic funded in part by Vision Tulsa

Tulsa World - November 30, 2018

Construction got underway Friday on a new, comprehensive health clinic in east Tulsa funded by nearly \$10 million in voter-approved Vision Tulsa funds. Community Health Connection, a federally qualified health center, is scheduled to open its Eastside Clinic on the campus of Union Public Schools' Ellen Ochoa Elementary in late 2019 or early 2020.

Helmerich & Payne announces new tech entity

Tulsa World - November 29, 2018

Helmerich & Payne announced a newly formed business entity Thursday that will be used to drive the development of advanced technologies and directional drilling automation solutions. Officials with the Tulsa-based drilling company hope that H&P Technologies will result in greater reliability and well performance.

ITX buys New Medio

Journal Record - November 28, 2018

ITX Corp. has purchased New Medio, a Tulsa-based software development and design company. ITX is a software development firm based in Rochester, New York, with 200 employees.

Historic downtown bank building to undergo renovation

Tulsa World - November 26, 2018

A Tulsa company will invest between \$4 million to \$5 million to restore a downtown office building that is close to a century old. The former National Bank of Commerce building, an eight-story, Beaux Arts-style structure completed in 1923, will be the new headquarters of The Evolutions Group, which will move from its 611 E. Fourth St. location.

Business FYI: Crafton Tull honored for workplace practices

Tulsa World - November 25, 2018

A local architecture firm has won a 2018 When Work Works Award for exemplary workplace practices. Crafton Tull, whose Tulsa office is among its seven in Arkansas and Tulsa, captured the honor, which recognizes employers of all sizes across the country that are excelling at offering a variety of top-rated employee initiatives. The award is part of a Society for Human Resource Management national initiative.

Settling in: Benefitfocus adds jobs, services at new Tulsa location

Tulsa World - November 24, 2018

A national benefits management platform and services provider recently celebrated a major expansion of its Tulsa operation. Benefitfocus moved its local office to the 17th floor of the Cityplex Towers, added a call center and hired 125 new employees. Benefitfocus, which has its headquarters in South Carolina, serves more than 170,000 employers across the country, bridging the gaps between brokers and consultants, employers and their employees.

Chili's Grill & Bar to celebrate grand opening at Tulsa International Airport

Tulsa World - November 19, 2018

Tulsa International Airport is scheduled to celebrate the grand opening of a Chili's Grill & Bar with a ribbon-cutting event and open house at 10 a.m. Tuesday. The opening marks the final installment of an 18-month-long concession transition providing local travelers with more food and beverage options.

Doubleshot Coffee expected to move to new location in January

Tulsa World - November 19, 2018

Construction on the new home of DoubleShot Coffee Co. is nearing completion. Owner Brian Franklin said he hopes to have the new location open by the beginning of January. The new coffee house, 1633 S. Boulder Ave., is being constructed using wood from an old Amish barn built in the 18th century in Indiana that was taken apart and transported to Tulsa to be repurposed.

Arkansas-based Tacos 4 Life to open a restaurant in Tulsa

Tulsa World - November 19, 2018

A taco restaurant on a mission to end world hunger announced its planned expansion into the Tulsa market on Monday. Tacos 4 Life expects to open at 10732 S. Memorial Drive in the middle of next year. The location will be the first in the state for the Arkansas-based restaurant. Tacos 4 Life donates 22 cents to Feed My Starving Children for every taco, quesadilla, salad, nachos or rice bowl that is sold. Since opening in 2014, Tacos 4 Life has raised enough money to provide 7 million meals.

Tulsa-based Bama Companies works with McDonald's to fashion new pie recipe for chain

Tulsa World - November 19, 2018

Bama Companies Inc. puts a lot of dough in its dough. The exclusive pie supplier for all 14,000 McDonald's restaurants in the United States, the Tulsa food maker produces more than 2 million pies per day. On Monday, Bama showcased its 50-year-plus partnership with the fast-food mega-chain by inviting local media to view how it manufactures the company's reformulated pastry. Bama has three production facilities in Tulsa and employs more than 800 people.

Williams, Brazos to form joint venture

Journal Record - November 16, 2018

TULSA - Williams Cos. and Brazos Midstream have an agreement to form a joint venture in the Delaware Basin. Under terms of the agreement, Tulsa-based Williams will contribute its existing Delaware Basin assets to the partnership in exchange for a 15 percent minority position in the joint venture. The contribution of the Williams assets will expand the footprint of the current Brazos system and the combined capabilities of the partnership will provide customers more services.

Full thrust ahead: American Airlines' Tulsa Maintenance Base welcomes new engine work

Tulsa World - November 15, 2018

Hanging from a gantry at American Airlines Tulsa Maintenance Base on Thursday was a 4.5-ton source of affection for its workforce. An estimated 200 employees gathered to herald the arrival of the CFM56-5B, the first of a new engine fleet to be maintained at the facility. The first -5B arrived Monday, Thomas said, and three more are expected in Tulsa by the end of the year. The base expects to perform 30 to 40 heavy overhauls on the engine in 2019 as well as about 10 "light visits," he said.

Spears Travel Celebrates 60 Years of Service

GTR Newspapers – November 14, 2018

In November, Greg, Gary and Charlene Spears, owners of Spears Travel/Travel Leaders in Tulsa and Bartlesville, are celebrating the 60th anniversary of their business. Formerly known as Kelley World Travel, Spears World Travel Service was founded in 1958 by Chuck and Charlene Spears.

Whirlpool Corp. builds on decades-old area commitment with expansion

Tulsa World - November 12, 2018

Whirlpool Corp., a consistent manufacturing presence in the area since 1996, continued that legacy Monday. Beneath a tent that shielded guests from the cold and wet, company representatives and state and local leaders broke ground on a \$55 million expansion scheduled to be completed in the next year.

NGL Energy reports net profit

Journal Record - November 8, 2018

TULSA - NGL Energy Partners on Thursday reported net income for the second fiscal quarter ended Sept. of \$354.9 million, compared with a net loss of \$173.6 million for the second quarter of the previous fiscal year. Revenue for the second fiscal quarter totaled \$6.7 billion, up from \$3.9 billion a year earlier.

Sharpe's Department Store will open its first Tulsa location next week

Tulsa World - November 5, 2018

Sharpe's Department Store is moving into the city after nearly 100 years of providing clothing options to shoppers in rural Oklahoma. Next week, the Checotah-based chain is opening its first Tulsa location in the Crystal City shopping center.

Business FYI: Cherokee CRC to work with BIA on waterline in New Mexico

Tulsa World - November 4, 2018

Tulsa-based Cherokee CRC, a subsidiary of Cherokee Nation Businesses, is among seven companies chosen to support a five-year contract with the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. The BIA's recent National Multiple Award Construction Contract includes work on buildings and facilities located throughout the United States and Indian Country.

As new south Tulsa dine-in movie theater prepares to open, Windsor Market settles into new home

Tulsa World - November 3, 2018

Cinergy Entertainment plans to open its dine-in movie theater and entertainment center in south Tulsa early next year, a company official said Friday. The entertainment facility is being built at The Village of Woodland Hills Shopping Center, 6808 S. Memorial Drive, in space once occupied by Village 8 Movies, Windsor Market and other businesses.

Layoffs, Closings, Downsizes, Restructures

Castleberry's Ethan Allen to close after 32 years

Tulsa World - November 29, 2018

The south Tulsa furniture store has marked down its entire inventory as owner Bill Castleberry prepares to carry on a family tradition he hoped to break. No closing date has been set for the Ethan Allen store at 6006 S. Sheridan Road. The store will remain open until all its merchandise is sold.

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Comparative Unemployment Rates

Period	County %	MSA %	State %	U.S. %
2018 October	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.5
2017 October	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Rates are not seasonally adjusted.